

## **Chepachet Fire District**

### **Executive Committee – Monthly Meeting.**

**January 24, 2007**

**The Chepachet Fire District monthly meeting was held at the Chepachet Fire Station on Wednesday, January 24, 2007. Chairman Earl Newman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.**

**Members present were George Leonhardt and Lynda Martone. Robert Lohr and Jamie Hainsworth were absent. Also present were Treasurer David Steere, Tax Collector Patricia Svansson, Chief Robert Dauphinais, Deputy Chief Dennis Huestis and District Clerk/Secretary Darlene Shields.**

#### **Secretary's Report:**

**All members have received copies of the minutes for December 20, 2006 monthly meeting for their review. Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the minutes of the December 20, 2006 as presented, second by Mr. Leonhardt and passed 3–0.**

#### **Tax Collector's Report:**

**Mrs. Svansson has busy with tax collections for the month of December she had collected \$134,525.96 and so far for the month of January she has collected \$105,148.21. The payments have started to**

slow down as is to be expected at this time of the year. Edward McCormick submitted a check in the amount of \$921.46 for three accounts our share of the amount collected minus Mr. McCormick's fee is \$612.87.

Motion made by Mr. Leonhardt to accept the Tax Collector report as presented, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 3-0.

Mr. Steere inquired as to the total outstanding amount that Mr. McCormick office is trying to collect. Mrs. Svansson will have a figure for next month's monthly meeting as to what the outstanding balance is broken down by year. Mr. Steere made note that according to the audit there is approximately \$95,000 of receivables that is outstanding. Mrs. Svansson confirms that she estimates the outstanding balance to be in the \$89,000 range for the past couple of years.

Mr. Steere felt that \$95,000 is a large amount of outstanding taxes to be carrying for the past few years. Mr. Newman questioned the option of having a tax sale. Mrs. Svansson reminded the board that the Executive Committee choose this course for collecting outstanding taxes about four years ago as an alternative to having a tax sale. Mrs. Svansson does feel that this current course for collecting outstanding taxes is a very long process and has had some difficulty with Mr. McCormick's office in the past year with the up loading of the data she emailed to the programmer.

**Mr. Steere made note of a new law that the RI Housing has to be notified of a tax sale and we would need to look into the new law further. The new law would allow RI Housing to step in prior to a tax sale and pay the outstanding taxes.**

**Mr. Newman tabled this discussion until next month's meeting.**

#### **Treasurer Report:**

**Mr. Steere passed out copies of the December's Treasurer's Report. Mr. Steere indicated that all the accounts are in good standing and expenses are inline. The biggest expense for the month was the payment on the new truck.**

**Mr. Steere made note that this is currently a little over \$500,000 in the PIP Account \$120,000 of that is for dedicated funds.**

**Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept report as submitted and pay the monthly bills, second by Mr. Newman and passed 3-0.**

#### **Chief's Report:**

**Chief Dauphinais read his report for the month of December and submitted a written report to be placed on file.**

**Motion made by Mr. Newman to accept report as presented, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 3–0.**

### **Old Business:**

#### **A. Charter Changes:**

**Mrs. Shields informed the board that she has been in contact with Senator Fogarty's office and has given him the Charter Changes. Ms. Shields has left a message with Sen. Fogarty's secretary as to an update and a bill number for tracking purposes.**

#### **B. Percentage Budget Cap Law Inquiry:**

**Mrs. Shields contacted Mr. Craven's office and asked for his legal opinion on whether Fire District fell under the new Budget Cap Law (S-3050). In a verbal conversation he did feel that we would fall under the new law, Mrs. Shields asked for his opinion in writing as of this day of the meeting no mail was received from his office. In addition to contacting Attorney Craven, Mr. Steere recommended Mrs. Shields to also contact the State of R.I. General Auditor, who then forwarded the question to the Department of Municipalities. The end result is that Fire Districts do not fall under the new law and also made mention that Fire Districts are not under any Budget Cap restrictions.**

## **New Business:**

### **A. EMT Class:**

**Chief Dauphinais made mention of an EMT Class that will be starting in February to be held here at The Chepachet Fire Department. Currently there are 11 members signed up the class at \$800.00 per person which would cost \$8,800.00. The Rescue Training budget is for \$5000.00 and will be a need for additional \$3800.00 in funds. There is \$2500.00 remaining in the fire training account that can be used for the EMT Class.**

### **B. Holiday Party:**

**The three departments annual Holiday Party is planned for December 29th at the Townsman Club.**

**C. Mr. Steere mentioned a new tax law that was passed July 2006 which starts that the increase for Budget can not exceed 5.25%. Mr. Steere recommended we contact Mr. Craven's office if Fire Districts come under the new law. Mrs. Shields will contact Mr. Craven's office for his legal opinion on this matter.**

**Dispense of Executive Session at this time.**

**Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 17, 2006 at 6:30 PM.**

**With no further business at this time, motion made by Mr. Hainsworth to adjourn, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:46PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Darlene L. Shields**  
**District Clerk / Chepachet Fire District**